

2022 Douglas County Youth Initiative Mid-Year Report, Marsha Alston, Manager



DCYI Programs:



La Liga soccer, basketball, 4H, and music lessons!



Youth Empowerment Seminars for kids in Truancy Court, same as kids in Teen Court



Project Upstream: Five meetings held at Mesa Middle School last year



Lunch-n-Learns for each of the identified issues, to include vaping and substance abuse



Continue working with families who are system involved, via WRAP



“Take 10” – a bi-weekly email highlighting various topics of interest, e.g., Back to School Anxiety, Self-Esteem, 40 Assets, and Reducing Stress in a fast paced County



Meet with youth groups to ask what they see as needs and gaps

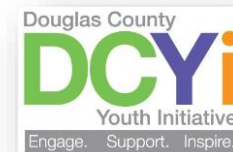


- ISSUES THAT ARE FACING DC YOUTH AND FAMILIES TODAY



- DCYI is working to coordinate services/programs that already address these issues, leveraging existing work.
- Additionally, DCYI helps develop new ideas, building programs in incremental and tangible steps based on shared priorities. **See next page for examples.**

- **1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE - #1** REQUESTED TOPIC FOR YOUTH CONGRESS; THIS INCLUDES ALCOHOL AND VAPING
- **2. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND COORDINATION**
- **3. ESTABLISHING A TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY**
- **4. YOUTH TRANSPORTATION**
- **5. YOUTH VOICE AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
- **6. PRO SOCIAL AND MENTORSHIP**
- **7. PARENT EDUCATION**



DCYI - Strategic *Doing in 2022*

Outstanding Youth Awards

Each Spring, DCYI selects 10 outstanding youth who have overcome personal adversity and created positive change in their lives. The awards program provides business, community and civic leaders an opportunity to actively demonstrate their belief and support for the young people in our community.

Youth Congress

Each Fall, students are invited to work with community and elected officials in a Youth Congress that allows them the opportunity to share their ideas and give feedback on issues pertaining to them. Held at the State Capitol, 9-12 graders, hear from subject matter experts on a variety of issues, and then tackle solving these complicated problems. From unifying the teen curfew, to working on the prevention of bullying, these students learn how challenging it is to govern and how they can make a difference by working together.

Educational Series

DCYI hosts quarterly Lunch-n-Learns presenting a variety of topics. When DCYI learns of a topic or issue that the community may be interested in, we invite speakers to present to our community. We have offered presentations on, Autism, Mitigating Negative Behaviors, Prevention of Teen Suicide, and Drugs in our Community. Well attended and well received, DCYI is proud to offer these trainings to the community.

Truancy Project

Working with the court system for youth involved with Truancy, 10+ absences, both excused and unexcused. Working with youth on obtaining their GED's if over the age of 17. Working with numerous community partners to ensure kids go to school.

QUICK REMINDER: WHAT IS OUR LARGEST PROGRAM, WRAPAROUND, ALL ABOUT?

- Free
- Voluntary
- Work with families with youth, ages 5-21
- Work in the home, for 12-24 months
- Trying to keep kids, safe, healthy, and remain in the home
- Get to know the whole family PLUS their neighbors, friends, relatives, teachers, doctors, etc.
- Clients: Self-referral or from an agency; mostly DCSD schools and Human Services/Child Welfare
- Review each family on a scale of 10 life domains, calculated, via their needs

Example:

- Grandparents raising two girls, 5th and 7th grades
- 5th grader in Social Emotional Learning classroom, part of Special Ed
- 5th grader has been hospitalized numerous times; out of control behaviors
- Family has Kaiser
- WRAP:
- Meets with family 1 a week
- Meets with school to help
- Coordinates services
- Arranges for services
- Listens
- Family has stated that we have done more for them than any other service
- Working with the family on how to parent children coming from a very dysfunctional setting
- Their domain number: 6, or 60%



TEN LIFE DOMAINS

| 1. SCHOOL | 2. MENTAL HEALTH DX | 3. CHILD WELFARE | 4. COURT | 5. POLICE/DCSQ | 6. GEN | 7. HEALTH | 8. BASIC NEEDS | 9. PARENTING | 10. FINANCES |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| TRUANT | HOSPITAL | OUT OF HOME RISK; LOW, MED, HIGH | CHARGES | GENERAL INVOLVEMENT | DV | SUB-ABUSE | HOUSING | LACK OF PARENTING SKILLS | LACK OF RESOURCES |
| DISRUPTIVE | MH DIAGNOSIS | DHS INVOLVEMENT | PROBATION | REPEAT VISITS | TRAUMA | DISABLED | TRANSPORTATION | BEYOND CONTROL | UNDER EMPLOYED |
| EXPELLED | BIPOLAR | | DYC | KNOWN TO PATROL AS HIGH RISK | ADOPTED | ILLNESS | FOOD | PARENTAL CONFLICT | UNEMPLOYED |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE | SUICIDE/SUICIDAL IDEATION | | PRE TRIAL | | FOSTER CHILD | OBESSE | NO HEALTH INSURANCE | LACK OF RESOURCES; TRAININGS, EDUCATION | UNDER INSURED/NOT INSURED |
| BULLIED | CUTTING | | OPEN NEGLECT CASE | | INCARCERATED | TBI | | LACK OF SUPPORT | CAN'T AFFORD DEDUCTIBLE |
| IEP/SSN/BEHV PLAN | PTSD | | DIVERSION | | HI CONFLICT DIVORCE | MS | | LACK OF RESPITE | |

Is WrapAround helpful? We were amazed at the contacts, analysis and services that Marsha, Patsy and Tena were able to introduce to us. After getting to know us and our challenges, they were able to identify the need for Trauma Therapists and help us get our 2 granddaughters into better individual therapy as well as Family Therapy. **Different from other services?** Yes. They provided weekly high touch follow up and made great recommendations as our family issues evolved. It was nice not feeling like we were on a 45 min. clock with a provider. **Did you enjoy working with Marsha, Patsy and Tena?** Definitely. When the school suggested Wrap Around services, I was a little skeptical that we would get a significant benefit, but these women certainly are knowledgeable, caring and spot on with their recommendations. We can definitely see improvement in our granddaughters' behavior at home.

Marsha also facilitated a conference call with the 4 therapists from 3 different organizations who work with our granddaughters to provide a forum for sharing their insights and therapy focus. It was an excellent session and everyone found value in the collaboration and suggestions.

DCYI Goals 2022:

- Continue assisting students in graduating from High School; 11

-AND-

- Continue to increase attendance to DCYI events
- Work on Teen Court Programs
- Work on promoting Sources of Strength – helping develop a community promotion plan with DCSD
- Continue developing a strategic plan focusing on relevant topics:
 - ***Parent Education and resources***
 - ***Coordination of mental health services and resources***
 - ***Substance Use Prevention***
 - ***Youth Mentorship***
 - ***Developing youth leadership***
 - ***Transportation***
 - ***Sex Trafficking***
 - ***Fentanyl***